

I claim:

1. A method for sharing digital media across a network, which comprises:

forming a request including recipient information and digital media information;

requesting digital media by transmitting the request from a recipient to a server;

selecting in the server the digital media corresponding to the request;

transmitting the digital media to the recipient corresponding to the request; and

recording in the server the recipient information and the digital media information.

2. The method according to claim 1, which includes charging a license to the recipient for the digital media.

3. The method according to claim 1, which includes verifying that the recipient has licensed the digital media before transferring the digital media.

4. The method according to claim 3, which includes charging the recipient a license for the digital media when the recipient does not have a license for the media.

5. The method according to claim 1, which includes:

storing the digital media on a peer connected to the network;

sending the request from the server to the peer; and

transmitting the digital media from the peer to the recipient based on the recipient information.

6. The method according to claim 1, which includes tracking with the server which digital media are being shared on each peer.

7. The method according to claim 1, which includes confirming that the digital media received by the recipient is identical to the digital media having been sent.

8. The method according to claim 1, which includes selecting the digital media from the group consisting of MP2, MP3, MPG, MOV, WMA, WAV, JPG, GIF, DOC, RTF, PDF, e-books, APPLE® QUICKTIME® movies, DivX, DVD, and BMP.

9. The method according to claim 1, which includes generating a list of most transferred digital media per unit time.

10. The method according to claim 1, which includes generating a list of most commonly occurring digital media.

11. The method according to claim 1, which includes storing the digital media on the server.

12. The method according to claim 1, which includes not charging a subscription fee.

13. The method according to claim 1, which includes:
adding a recipient's age to the recipient information;

listing a permissible age for the digital media; and

blocking transfers of the digital media when the recipient's age is below the permissible age.

14. The method according to claim 1, which includes adding an IP address of the recipient to the recipient information.

15. The method according to claim 1, which includes adding a host name of the recipient to the recipient information.

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16. The method according to claim 1, which includes:

adding data to the digital media before transferring the digital media; and

removing the data from the digital media after transferring the digital media.

17. The method according to claim 16, which includes adding the recipient information to the data.

18. The method according to claim 17, which includes:

sending from the server to the recipient a key; and

requiring the key to play the digital media.

19. The method according to claim 18, which includes forming the key to be unique to the digital media and the recipient information.

20. The method according to claim 16, which includes making the digital media unplayable while the data is added.

21. The method according to claim 18, which includes adding advertisement information to the data.

22. The method according to claim 21, which includes displaying an advertisement based on the advertisement information.

23. The method according to claim 22, which includes relating the advertisement to the recipient information.

24. The method according to claim 22, which includes relating the advertisement to the digital media.

25. The method according to claim 22, which includes transferring the advertisement from the server to the recipient.

26. The method according to claim 22, which includes notifying the server when the advertisement has been played.

27. The method according to claim 22, which includes:

adding a language spoken by the recipient to the recipient information; and

tailoring the advertisement to the language.

28. The method according to claim 16, which includes making the digital media into an executable file.

29. The method according to claim 21, which includes displaying the advertisement before playing the digital media.

30. The method according to claim 29, which includes displaying the advertisement each time the digital media is played.

31. The method according to claim 29, which includes changing the advertisement each time the digital media is played.

32. The method according to claim 18, which includes removing the data from the digital media with the key.

33. The method according to claim 18, which includes requiring the key every time the digital media is played.

34. The method according to claim 18, which includes expiring the key after a period of time.

35. The method according to claim 29, which includes displaying the advertisement while the digital media is transferring.